

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 10535 031144Z

ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS JAKARTA 10535

FOR PGM/RC; VOA; CINCPAC FOR ICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION -- ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

(1) ANGKATAN BERSENJATA, THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES DAILY, IN AN AUGUST 3 EDITORIAL SEES THE CONFERENCE AS "AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR ASEAN," ONE THAT CAN "LAY THE GROUND WORK FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION IN ECONOMICS AND TRADE AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY." IN SO DOING, THE EDITORIAL ADDED, THE CONFERENCE CAN HELP REALIZE "ASPIRATIONS TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE" AND CREATE "REGIONAL STABILITY AND PEACE."

(2) THE NEWSPAPER SAID VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S STATEMENTS DURING HIS VISIT HERE SHOW THAT "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS NOW PAYING (SERIOUS) ATTENTION TO ASEAN." IT ADDED, "WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY SPECTACULAR RESULTS FROM THE MEETING, EXCEPT LAYING THE GROUND WORK FOR IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING IN THE UNITED STATES OF ASEAN'S INTEREST IN MORE TRADE AND MORE INVESTMENT."

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PAGE 02 JAKART 10535 031144Z

(3) THE MOSLEM PARTY NEWSPAPER PELITA SAID IN AN EDITORIAL THAT "ASEAN NATIONS, WHICH PRODUCE OIL AND VARIOUS RAW MATERIALS, OUGHT TO STEP UP THEIR EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF U.S. INDUSTRIES. THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OTHER HAND, OUGHT TO INCREASE ITS INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS TO ASEAN. U.S. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STRENGTH SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD HELPING IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE

REGION... THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE ITS PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, NOT IN A MILITARY SENSE, BUT IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS."

(4) BERITA YUDHA, A DAILY WITH TIES TO THE ARMED FORCES, CHOSE THE OPENING DAY OF THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE TO CARRY A POLITICAL CARTOON, SHOWING ASEAN AS AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN BEING SOUGHT AFTER BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC."

(5) BOTH THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY, THE INDONESIAN OBSERVER, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONALISTIC MERDEKA GROUP OF PUBLICATIONS, AND ANGKATAN BERSENJATA, CARRIED THE USICA PRESS RELEASE, "ASEAN-US MEETING TO BRING ASIANS, AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TOGETHER." THE STORY WAS PLAYED ON PAGE THREE IN BOTH PAPERS.

(6) MOST MAJOR DAILIES CARRIED STORIES ON THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE, A NUMBER OF THEM USING A WASHINGTON-DATE-LINED ARTICLE FROM THE ANTARA (NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY) FILE. THE ARTICLE SAYS: "EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN TRADE, ENERGY AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT" ARE UP FOR DISCUSSION; "SOUTHEAST ASIAN VIEWS ARE BEING CONSIDERED INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT BY WASHINGTON;" AND "ASEAN IS INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN AMERICAN INVESTMENT." THE OBSERVER CARRIED THE STORY PAGE THREE, ANGKATAN BERSENJATA ON PAGE ONE, AND THE INDEPENDENT DAILY, SINAR HARAPAN ON PAGE 15.

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PAGE 03 JAKARTA 10535 031144Z

(7) BERITA YUDHA, MERDEKA, AND THE OBSERVER, ALL CARRIED A REUTER DISPATCH ON PAGE ONE WITH THE OBSERVER GIVING IT A SIX-COLUMN PLAY. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY, THE INDONESIA TIMES IN A PAGE-ONE LEAD STORY SAID THAT THE CONFERENCE IS "EXPECTED TO REMOVE THE IMPRESSION IN THE UNITED STATES THAT SOUTHEAST ASIA MEANS NOTHING MORE THAN INDOCHINA."

(8) HEADLINES IN ALL NEWSPAPERS WERE STRICTLY NEUTRAL IN TONE, MOST MERELY ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SINAR'S PAGE-15 STORY, PLAYED THREE COLUMNS ACROSS THE TOP AND ANNOUNCING, "SOUTHEAST ASIAN POSITION CONSIDERED INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT BY WASHINGTON." ENDUSINFO.  
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## Message Attributes

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